



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
17 JUNE 1967

**1. Arab States -
Israel**

The opening meeting of the General Assembly convenes at 9:30 this morning. The wording of the agenda may well produce the first controversy of the session. The Soviets want the assembly to consider "the liquidation of Israeli aggression" and the withdrawal of Israeli forces behind the armistice lines. The UN Secretariat, however, is trying to get a relatively bland formulation--hoping to avoid a long procedural debate.

The Arab foreign ministers conference, originally scheduled for today in Kuwait, will apparently be held in New York instead. The Arabs undoubtedly decided that they will be able to accomplish more at the UN than in Kuwait.

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Marshal Zakharov, the Chief of the Soviet General Staff, has arrived in Cairo for an unannounced visit. In addition to checking on the Soviet airlift, we presume the Marshal's visit is intended to give the Egyptians some tangible evidence of Russian concern over their military defeat.

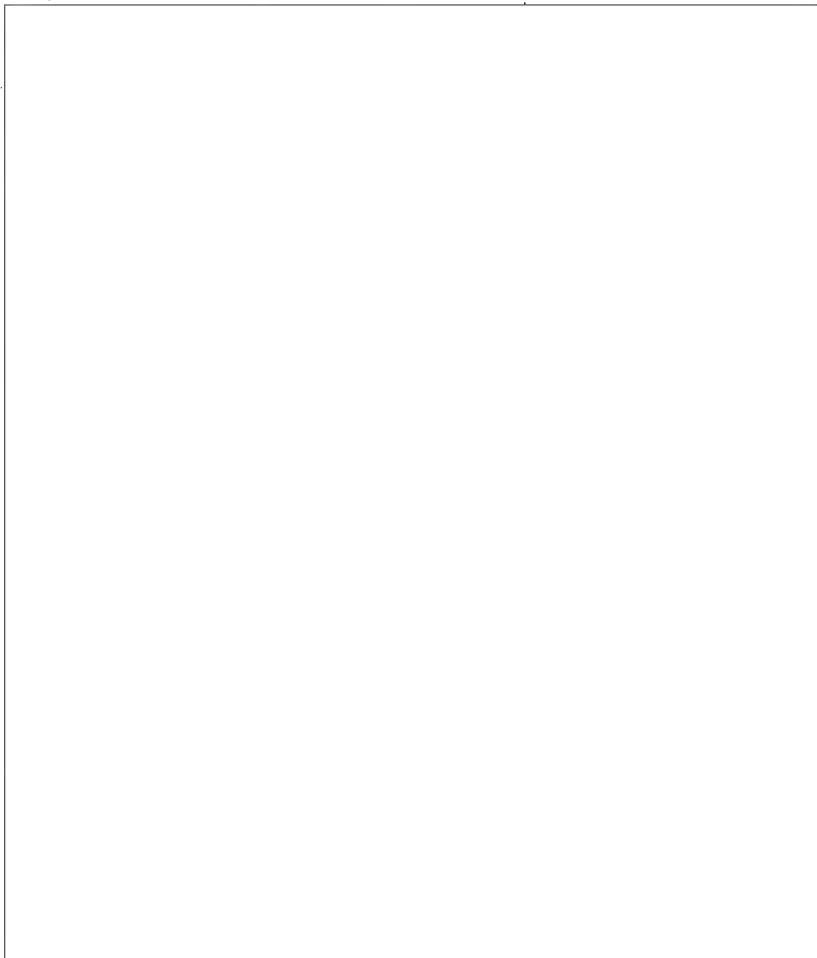
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2. Soviet Union

Embassy Moscow believes the Soviet delegation to the General Assembly is well tailored for talks with the US-- particularly on subjects other than the Middle East. The embassy also comments that Kosygin's trip may be a good thing in itself--he has never been in the US before and, being relatively undogmatic, is more likely to draw appropriate conclusions from what he sees here than Khrushchev did or Brezhnev would.

3. Soviet Union - Cuba

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4. United Kingdom

According to a Gallup Poll published yesterday, the conservatives lead labor by seven percent. This continues the steady improvement in conservative standing over the past four months and marks the highest point of public support for the Tories during labor's tenure in office.

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5. South Vietnam

Despite assurances to the contrary from both Ky and Thieu, armed forces unity is going to be strained if both men go in to the presidential campaign.

There is a deepening enmity between the two men, an enmity particularly noticeable on Thieu's side. Ambassador Bunker talked with Thieu Wednesday. After repeating his pledge to maintain military unity, Thieu whipped into a bitter condemnation of Ky's electioneering tactics.

"This is not Ky's government," Thieu said, "the Directorate is the government and I happen to be its chairman."

Neither US nor Vietnamese mediators have been successful so far in getting Thieu and Ky together to talk things out and, given Thieu's present mood, any session would be scratchy.

6. Bolivia

President Barrientos is thinking of buying off one of the leading opposition parties in an attempt to strengthen his political base. The price is said to be at least three cabinet posts, including the Foreign Ministry, for the rightist Socialist Falange.

This looks like an attempt by Barrientos to neutralize the opposition while he concentrates on the persistent guerrilla problem. The guerrillas in recent weeks have shown greater skill and strength in their sporadic encounters with government troops; the public is losing patience with the ineffective government response.

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